

Water conservation at nursery

Climate change, population increase and changes in lifestyle have all led to increasing pressure being put on our water supplies.

Using less water is the single most important contribution that we can all make to protect our water supply. Here are some top tips for conserving water in your nursery environment.

Indoors:

- Always turn taps off tightly so they do not drip
- Check the children's bathroom at regular intervals during the day to ensure taps are turned off
- Toilet leaks can be slow and silent. Be sure to fully check toilets for leaks at least once a year
- Create a 'leak detective' role in your setting. If any children spot a running or dripping tap it is their job to turn it off and if there is a leak they must report it to an adult leak detective!
- Where possible wash only full loads in the washing machine and dishwasher
- Don't over-fill the water tray, you don't need a lot of water for the children to enjoy themselves
- Use alternative resources in the water tray such as dried rice and beans
- Use a bowl in the sink for washing fruit, or cleaning and peeling vegetables instead of under running water at snack time.



Outdoors:

- Recycle the water out of the water trays e.g. for watering the plants
- Collect rainwater in a water butt which can be used for gardening and outdoor water play
- Use nature's water trays - puddles are great for lots of activities including splashing, watching water evaporate and also painting with
- Water garden or growing areas with a watering can rather than a hosepipe
- Water plants and growing areas during the cool part of the day, in the morning or evening
- Mulch plants (with bark chippings, heavy compost or straw) to reduce water evaporation
- Do not over-water plants, soil cannot store extra water
- Always use a broom to clean walkways and paths rather than hosing off these areas.